

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Prior of Gorgona, Don Bartolommeo Serafini, "we believe and hope to be divinely helped by the prayers and tears of the just, rather than by the arms of soldiers and by human prudence. Therefore, with Peter, who when he was sinking in the sea besought aid from the Lord, and straightway merited to be delivered by His loving hand, earnestly and with devotion of heart, we summon to our assistance the devout tears and assiduous prayers of the just children of the Church, that they may humbly and devoutly assail the ears of the Lord, and He may the sooner bend to have compassion upon us." The monk is to have special prayers and sacrifices offered, night and day, in all the congregations and hermitages of men and women in Tuscany and elsewhere, and to seek out certain representatives of the different religious orders, including Giovanni dalle Celle and William Flete, and with them present himself in Rome before the Pope by the second Sunday after the Epiphany.¹ A number of others, not named in this bull, seem also to have been summoned, including Frate Antonio da Nizza and Fra Paolino da Nola, of Lecceto, and three of the hermits of Monte Luco, above Spoleto.

Catherine herself forwarded the bull to the Prior of Gorgona. "Now is our time," she wrote, "in which it will be seen who is a lover of the truth. We must arise from slumber and place the blood of Christ before our eyes, in order that we may be more inspirited for the battle. Our sweet Holy Father, Pope Urban VI, true Supreme Pontiff, seems to mean to adopt that remedy which is necessary for the reformation of Holy Church ; he wishes to have the servants of God by his side, and to guide himself and Holy Church by their counsels. For this reason he sends you this bull, in which is contained that you have to summon all those who are written there. Do it zealously and quickly, and without loss of time ; for the Church of God has need of no delay. Set

1 Bull published by Gigli, in notes to Catherine's letter to Don Bartolommeo. ^{^n^fr, f (T, ?_T^U, btfUl authenticlclt7)> <^ed September 6, 1378, is in Earth. VII Ipy^ 38 " ^ 5' and Tromb?' **" MP"r>«rcaS. Brun^ etc.,}